



CITY OF NEW HAVEN
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I am the Deputy Director for the City of New Haven Emergency Operations Center and have a direct responsibility to ensure the safety of all residents and visitors living and visiting the City of New Haven. This includes managing storm related issues that effect energized electrical components necessary to move our most fragile and vulnerable population, our elderly and residents with disabilities. The City of New Haven vigorously supports bill 6684, an Act Concerning a study of emergency power in public housing for the elderly.

The City has taken steps to work with our electrical energy provider, United Illuminating to address such issues facing these buildings by placing them as a tier two facility. As a tier two facility these units are provided immediate service to re-energize these facilities as soon as possible. They take precedence over many facilities except our emergency shelters. This creates a huge problem for the city because there are critical government facilities and infrastructure that need this protection as well. The City of New Haven has seen its share of elderly complexes losing power due to a significant increase and severity in weather related disasters such as Hurricane Irene and Super Storm Sandy. We have many housing complexes that range from 4 to 19 stories in height. Both of these natural disasters created significant issues for Firefighters and Emergency Medical Care providers. Several of these buildings were without power for many days. The city utilized firefighters and the National Guard just to assist disabled elderly to doctor's appointments. Emergency generators would have put emergency personnel resources in other needed recovery aspects.

Recent electrical fires in Elderly residential complexes displaced several hundred residents for several days during one of the coldest days of the year. Emergency generators would have allowed the displaced residents to be safely sheltered in their apartments.

Although emergency generators are expensive, they would provide the necessary life safety component to keep elevators running, keep heat and lights on, and also provide the required energy needed to keep elderly residents safe. This study will help us prove that we can save lives—especially the lives of our vulnerable population who are on dialysis, and rely on electricity to power life sustaining durable medical equipment.

Respectfully Submitted